

June 1, 1999

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Lyle D. Jaffe  
Dockets Management  
FDA/DHHS  
12420 Parklawn Dr., Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

Recently, I read an article in a magazine published by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals(PETA), an organization I respect and support. The article pointed out the barbaric practice of "forced molting" of layer hens to produce additional eggs.

What most chickens endure at the hands of our poultry industry already outrages me (e.g., being squeezed by groups into tiny cages and having their beaks cut off). But the plight of those chickens forced into unnatural molt is beyond belief, and includes such miseries as starvation and being kept in total darkness for weeks on end.

Forced molting is so blatantly cruel it was outlawed in Great Britain in 1987, and the laws of most other European countries protect hens in other ways. Yet our great country offers no such protection, and over 6 million hens suffer in consequence.

I wholehearted support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens, and plead for your agency to do likewise.

Sincerely,



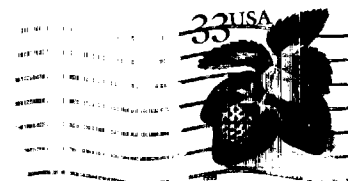
Mrs. Betty Heilman

788 Blackthorne Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020

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